



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2013

Psychology (Specification B) PSYB2

Unit 2 Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology and Individual Differences

Monday 21 January 2013 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is PSYB2.
- Choose **three** topics only, **one** topic from **Section A**, **one** topic from **Section B** and **one** topic from **Section C**.
- Answer **all** questions on the topics you choose.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The 10-mark questions you choose should be answered in continuous prose. You are advised to plan your answers carefully. In these questions, you will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Section A Social Psychology

There are two topics in this section: Social Influence and Social Cognition.

Choose **one** topic from this section. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 20 marks.

Topic: Social Influence

- 0 | 1** Suggest **two** causes of arousal that have been identified by social psychologists. (2 marks)
- 0 | 2** Using an example of a specific task, explain how **one** of the causes of arousal that you have suggested in **0 | 1** might affect the performance of that task. (2 marks)
- 0 | 3** Briefly discuss the Authoritarian Personality as an explanation for obedience to authority. (4 marks)
- 0 | 4** Apart from personality type, outline **one** psychological explanation for defiance of authority. (2 marks)
- 0 | 5** 'By today's standards, many studies of social influence would be judged unethical.'
Discuss ethical issues that have arisen in social influence research. Refer to evidence in your answer. (10 marks)
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Topic: Social Cognition

- 0 | 6** Identify **two** factors that affect impression formation. (2 marks)
- 0 | 7** Using an example of a specific situation, explain how **one** of the factors that you have identified in your answer to **0 | 6** might affect our impression of someone we have just met. (2 marks)
- 0 | 8** Briefly discuss the Authoritarian Personality as an explanation of prejudice. (4 marks)
- 0 | 9** Outline **one other** psychological explanation of prejudice. (2 marks)
- 1 | 0** Discuss **at least two** functions of attitudes. (10 marks)

Section B Cognitive Psychology

There are two topics in this section: Remembering and Forgetting and Perceptual Processes.

Choose **one** topic from this section. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 20 marks.

Topic: Remembering and Forgetting

1	1
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 Outline **one** limitation of motivated forgetting (including repression) as an explanation of forgetting. (2 marks)

A researcher studied the effect of context on memory. He used an independent groups design. He tested participants in one of two conditions.

In **Condition 1**, a group of 20 schoolchildren learned a list of 40 words in a classroom. This group then recalled the words in the same classroom.

In **Condition 2**, a different group of 20 schoolchildren learned the same list of 40 words in a classroom. This group then recalled the words in the school hall.

The researcher recorded the results and compared the mean number of words recalled in each condition.

1	2
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 Identify the independent variable in this study. (1 mark)

1	3
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 Use your knowledge of retrieval failure to explain the likely outcome of this study. (3 marks)

1	4
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 In this study, participants were randomly allocated to one of the two conditions. Explain how this might have been carried out. (2 marks)

1	5
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 In this study, the researcher used an independent groups design. The researcher decided to repeat the study with different participants and to use a matched pairs design. Explain how these participants could be matched and then allocated to the conditions. (2 marks)

1	6
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 Ross and Dale were discussing revision strategies before their psychology exam.

“I just re-read my notes over and over, until I remember them,” said Ross.
“That doesn’t work for me,” said Dale. “I have to really understand the material, and then I can recall it in the exam.”

Discuss levels of processing **and** the multi-store model of memory. Refer to the comments made by Ross **and** Dale in your answer. (10 marks)

Turn over for the next topic

Turn over ►

Topic: Perceptual Processes

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 Outline what is meant by *shape constancy* in visual perception. (2 marks)

A researcher studied the effect of expectation on perception. She used an independent groups design. She tested participants in one of two conditions.

In **Condition 1**, 20 participants were shown a series of pictures of vases, and then shown the ambiguous figure 'Rubin's vase'.

In **Condition 2**, 20 different participants were shown a series of pictures of faces, and then shown the ambiguous figure 'Rubin's vase'.

In each condition, the researcher recorded:

- the number of participants who reported perceiving the ambiguous figure as a 'vase'
- the number of participants who reported perceiving the ambiguous figure as 'faces'.

1	8
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 Identify the independent variable in this study. (1 mark)

1	9
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 In this study, participants were randomly allocated to one of the two conditions. Explain how this might have been carried out. (2 marks)

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 The researcher used an independent groups design. Explain why using a repeated measures design in this study would have confounded the results. (2 marks)

2	1
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 Use your knowledge of perceptual set to explain the likely outcome of this study. (3 marks)

2	2
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 Aisha and Safia were having a conversation about perception.

"We don't need any past experience to be able to perceive the world around us," argued Aisha.

"I don't agree with that at all," replied Safia. "We use our knowledge of the world to help us to perceive."

Discuss Gibson's **and** Gregory's theories of visual perception. Refer to the comments made by Aisha **and** Safia in your answer. (10 marks)

Section C Individual Differences

There are two topics in this section: Anxiety Disorders and Autism.

Choose **one** topic from this section. Answer **all** questions on the topic you choose.

Each topic carries 20 marks.

Topic: Anxiety Disorders

- 2 3** All phobias involve extreme fear. Briefly outline what is meant by *agoraphobia* and *social phobia*. (2 marks)
- 2 4** Outline a behavioural explanation of phobias. (2 marks)
- 2 5** Briefly discuss **one** limitation of the behavioural explanation of phobias that you have outlined in your answer to **2 4**. (3 marks)
- 2 6** Lily has a phobia of cars. This has become so extreme that she is almost a prisoner in her own home, refusing to go out. Lily is unable to watch cars on television, talk about cars or even look at pictures of them.
- Explain how a psychodynamic therapist might treat Lily's phobia of cars. (3 marks)
- 2 7** Discuss biological explanations of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). Refer to evidence in your answer. (10 marks)

Turn over for the next topic

Turn over ►

Topic: Autism

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| 2 | 8 |
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 Outline what is meant by *lack of joint attention* as a symptom of autism. (2 marks)
- | | |
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| 2 | 9 |
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 Outline the neurological correlates explanation of autism. (2 marks)
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| 3 | 0 |
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 Briefly discuss **one** limitation of the neurological correlates explanation of autism. (3 marks)
- | | |
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| 3 | 1 |
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 Aaron was diagnosed with autism when he was three years old. He is now six and has severe difficulty communicating. Aaron will often go for several days without speaking and shows little interest in other people.
- Explain how the Lovaas technique might be used as a therapy for Aaron's communication difficulties. (3 marks)
- | | |
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| 3 | 2 |
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 Autism has been studied in a number of different ways, for example:
- the Sally-Anne experiment
 - the 'Smartie tube' test
 - comic strip stories.
- Describe and evaluate **at least two** of these studies of autism. (10 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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